

Message Text

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ORIGIN SSM-05

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DRAFTED BY SSM: J T MCANDREW:JJ
APPROVED BY SSM: J T MCANDREW
SSM: L G PENDLETON, JR.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213175

FOR HUNT FROM MCANDREW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, OGEN

SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF SECURITY OFFICER

REF: SINAI 1957

1. IN A FOLLOWUP CONVERSATION YESTERDAY, SY ASSURED ME IT WAS PURSUING IN EARNEST OUR REQUEST FOR THE SELECTION OF A CANDIDATE FOR ASSIGNMENT TO SFM AS TSO/RSO. SY HAS, HOWEVER, EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING SOMEONE POSSESSING ALL OF THE ATTRIBUTES IDENTIFIED BY SPENCER BROWN TO FULFILL YOUR NEEDS. THE PROBLEM, IN ESSENCE, IS THAT MOST OF SY'S EXPERIENCED RSOS TEND TO BE GENERALISTS WITHOUT THE DESIRED LEVEL OF TECHNICAL SKILLS. TSOS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY AND IN GREAT DEMAND, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE HAD OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S SECURITY
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PROGRAM.

2. I REMINDED SY THAT, IF A CANDIDATE WITH THE RANGE OF QUALIFICATIONS OUTLINED BY SPENCER BROWN IS UNAVAILABLE, AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO MEET SFM'S SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE TO ASSIGN AN EXPERIENCED SECURITY OFFICER WHO COULD SERVE PART-TIME AS A LIAISON OFFICER. SY IS WILLING

TO CONSIDER THIS ALTERNATIVE, BUT PREFERS TO SEARCH FURTHER
IN THE HOPE OF FINDING A QUALIFIED TSO/RSO. SY BELIEVES
THE SOLUTION MAY BE TO SELECT A YOUNG OFFICER WITH THE

REQUIRED TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS WHO HAS NOT YET HAD
MUCH, IF ANY, PREVIOUS OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE AS A RSO.
TO OFFSET THE LACK OF OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE, SY WOULD
SCHEDULE SPECIAL BRIEFINGS AND TRAINING HERE BEFORE
DEPARTURE ON ASSIGNMENT TO SFM.

3. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SY HAS COME TO THE
CONCLUSION, PRESUMABLY BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH
SPENCER BROWN, THAT ON BALANCE, A CANDIDATE'S TECHNICAL
QUALIFICATIONS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE
AS A RSO. FRANKLY, I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT THIS CONCLUSION
IS FULLY IN ACCORD WITH YOUR VIEWS. IF NOT, LET ME
KNOW AND I WILL ASK SY TO FOREGO THE SEARCH FOR A TSO
AND TO CONCENTRATE ON FINDING A SECURITY OFFICER WITH
SOLID PREVIOUS OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE. IN THIS CASE, WE
WILL LOOK FOR OTHER SOLUTIONS TO MEET YOUR NEED FOR
SOMEONE WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTISE.

4. PLEASE CAPTION ANY RESPONSE "FOR SSM ONLY." CHRISTOPHER

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